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CPYRGHT

Cloak & Dagger CIA Doubts Berlin Blowup

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Will Russia explode the Berlin crisis into World War III?

The hush-hush Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is reasonably sure it has the answer to that question—and the answer, apparently, is a cautious no.

Robert Amory, Jr., CIA Deputy Director for Intelligence, says the Russians "haven't got what it takes rationally to challenge us this spring."

15 YEARS OF PEACE?

Although the Soviet Union is not ready to risk a major nuclear war over Berlin, he says, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev "expects to force us to chicken out."

"If the West is resolute, then I believe that the Soviet Union—by hook or crook—will be the one to back down."

The CIA deputy further declared Soviet leaders were told 18 months ago that a 15-year period of peace is imperative.

"Their economy is by no means

mobilized for war or preparing for war," Amory says.

Amory hedges his bet on the Kremlin's reluctance to pull the trigger, to this extent: The Soviets, he says, though not ready, will fight if circumstances force a war.

Amory made his unusual on-the-record appraisal of Soviet intentions in a recent, little-publicized lecture at the University of South Carolina. It was his first public address in four years.

GIVES CRASH ESTIMATES

Whether his statement reflects the CIA's official view, as laid before President Eisenhower and the policy-shaping National Security Council, is a matter of conjecture. The CIA rarely makes public utterances on international affairs.

But at any hour of the day or night, the CIA can and often does come up with crash estimates of the situation wherever a crisis develops. These include such things as reports on the move-

ment of important military units and coldly logical appraisals of what is likely to happen.

CONFIDENTIAL WATCHDOG

It is this round-the-clock alertness, in contrast to haphazard methods used in the past, that the CIA confidently expects to prevent the disaster of another Pearl Harbor.

The agency, for example, accurately predicted that the Russians wouldn't fight when President Truman ordered the Berlin airlift in June, 1948.

And though it has never said so publicly, there is reason to believe the CIA estimated Russia might have resorted to war if the United States had intervened in the 1956 Hungarian revolution.

CHAIR-BORNE EXPERTS

Behind these all-important appraisals is a staff of global information experts whose job at times overshadows the exploits of clandestine espionage agents.

We have spies too, of course, as well as the Russians. And the seductive, sly-eyed Mata Hari wiggling her way along the aisle of the Orient Express still plays an important role in the drama of international eavesdropping.

Some authorities, however, say that more genuinely valuable information is gathered by the stay-at-home fact sifters working behind desks at CIA headquarters in Washington than by cloak-and-dagger agents roaming the world.

ANALYZE INFORMATION

The CIA maintains a sizable force of economic specialists, scientists, translators, linguists, geophysicists, cartographers, physicists and others to gather, analyze and interpret the enormous flood of information pouring in from every corner of the world—foreign radio broadcasts, magazines, newspapers, wire service reports, etc.

As a single example, the CIA translates all obtainable Soviet scientific publications—a Herculean task since the Russians publish as much scientific data as we do. The CIA translations, in turn, are published by the Department of Commerce and sold to the public at \$28 for a year's subscription.

GATHER ARMS DATA

Dr. Sherman Kent, an assistant CIA director, former Yale history professor and Office of Strategic Services (OSS) agent in World War II, says in his book "Strategic Intelligence" it is possible to obtain as much as 90 percent of required information by such intelligence methods.

Information about Soviet military forces is difficult to obtain this way, but not impossible. Soviet military strength and location are pretty well known to the CIA's experts.

Even more important, in the long run, is a clear understanding of Soviet strategy, tactics and military philosophy.

'REMARKABLY ACCURATE'

Dr. Raymond L. Garthoff, author of "Soviet Strategy in the Nuclear Age," who has lectured at the National War College, says he believes a close study of Soviet periodicals, newspapers, books and manuals can provide a jackpot of vital information.

"Although published statements can be falsified and deceptive," Garthoff says, "the writings in Soviet military journals on doctrinal and strategic views have proved remarkably accurate."

It follows that the Russians also use American publications in their intelligence work.

'TELL TOO MUCH'

Concerning this CIA Director Allen W. Dulles, brother of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, makes no secret of his belief that "we tell the Russians too much."

It is known, for example, that the Russian Embassy and Soviet agents in this country ship literally tons of U. S. military information to the Kremlin.